

Remarks on Signing the Cancer Control Month Proclamation *March 29, 1996*

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, we're going to have a ceremony over in the East Room in just a few moments, so I don't want to make my remarks twice. Let me just say that there is hardly a family in America who has not been touched by cancer. We have come a very, very long way in the fight against cancer. More people are survivors than ever before; more people are living longer than ever before. But we have a great deal more to do before we can be confident that we have actually done

everything possible to give our children and our grandchildren the kind of future they deserve.

And that's what this day is about. And that's what this proclamation declaring April Cancer Control Month is all about. And I'm glad to sign it, especially with these children behind me because they are the embodiment of our common endeavors.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:34 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks on the Anticancer Initiative *March 29, 1996*

Mr. Vice President, Secretary Shalala, Dr. Kessler, Congressman Richardson, welcome. To all of you who are here, I welcome you, and I thank you, each in your own way, for the power of your example.

I thank Stacy, too, especially for being here and telling us her story and doing it in the way that she did. We know we can thank modern medicine, but you saw a little bit of her steel and grit when she was talking, and it's a great testimony to her faith and to her inner strength. I think that we ought to ask her parents to stand since she mentioned them.

Would you stand up, please, Mr. and Mrs. Oller? Thank you. [*Applause*] Thank you very much.

Perhaps more than any other health statistic in America, cancer touches virtually every family. My mother and my stepfather succumbed to cancer; the Vice President lost his sister. Just before coming here today I proclaimed April Cancer Control Month over in the Oval Office, and I was there with several cancer patients and their families. They're all over here, and I want to thank all of them for coming to visit with me, the children and the adults alike, the parents, the brothers, the sisters. As families, they are fighting for a way to win this battle, and the rest of us owe it to them to give them every chance they can to win. That's why we're

here today; we want to have more people like Stacy.

More than ever before, we know from the sheer statistics that cancer is treatable and beatable. We know that early detection and prevention are critical. We have, therefore, put more resources in to mammograms for women over 50, and we have taken a very strong stand against the use of tobacco by young people and against any attempt to induce them to use it.

When cancer does strike, we have an ever-growing arsenal of new drugs and cutting-edge therapies to fight it. But before any treatment can get to patients, we need to make sure it is safe and effective. The development and approval process can take years. When a member of a family get cancer, the whole family bears the pain and years are sometimes far, far too long. These families should not also suffer from the stress of knowing that there may be better remedies already out there, but they're somehow not quite available.

So I'm happy today to say to those patients and to their families, the waiting is over. Today, we announce a major new initiative to speed new cancer therapies to our people. These changes will affect at least 100 drugs now being studied. Dozens of them will get to the market sooner, and that means they can help Americans suffering from cancers of the breast, lung, ovary,